



the Nation

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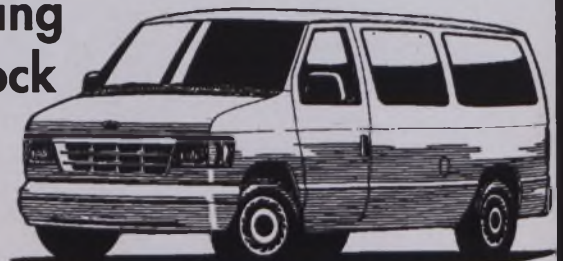
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LOOKING AT THE BLOOD

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times... Oops, seem to be stealing something too noticeably not mine. I guess I'm not the first or the last to do so. Throughout the ages people have been borrowing, stealing or re-inventing the "wheel" as it were.

This is all fine and good most of the time. Many cultures, peoples and nations have benefited from the crossover of ideas and inventions. Indeed, some of the greatest advances of Homo Sapiens have come about as a result of such exchanges.

It, of course, has its dark side. Whenever confronted with another people, territoriality and nationality spring to the forefront of our minds and actions. Taken too far, we begin to goose-step into the realm of racial purity and superiority.

This is something that I seem to be getting a few hints of these days in the Native communities and it is very disturbing. To be fair, it is not only the Native communities. Just look at the KKK, Heritage Front, etc.

But to find the beginnings of it at home is not something that I can accept in silence. When I hear Cree First, I have no problem, but when it or similar words are spoken while pointedly looking at a Cree who has "mixed blood," I have to question the worth of the person speaking them. Not only is it a reprehensible action but it also means that the person has very few solutions. They are only using emotionalism because they have little else to offer in reality.

Like Hitler, who stoked the emotions of the German people, this person is only providing a convenient scapegoat for the "masses." The "masses" are you, the voters, in this case.

And in this case I refuse to sit by idly and allow this to happen. I have "mixed blood" and so do many Crees I know. This does not make us less than the "pureblooded" in terms of Cree values, pride, way of life or anything else. I am not perfect but neither is anyone else and the contributions to the community are not less because of the "blood" factor.

With this in mind I would like to forewarn those who would attempt the types of actions I have been hearing about. If I am there, I will stand up and ask you if you are talking to me and expose you for the closet racist you are. I would encourage other people to do the same.

Racism in any form flourishes only in the absence of opposition and when confronted head-on will wither and die on the stunted vine that it grows upon.

It is the responsibility of all members of the community to determine the future of a community. It is your choice on whether or not you want these "blood quantum wars" to be a part of your future. Look at the present divisions in the Mohawk communities. Is this the future you want?

by William Nicholls

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AUGUST 30, 1996



"Thanks for your support"

By the time most of you read this edition of *The Nation*, election day will, sadly, have come and gone. It is a mere seven days before the vote and I still don't know who my opponents are. Those career politicians, they like to sneak up on you. They don't even bother to reveal their agendas and plans for this great nation of ours. Whereas we told you ours weeks before even being nominated, not to mention before even being on the ballot.

Hold on... Let's back up a bit here... We might not have been on the ballot at all. There's still time, as we write this, for my political enemies to have my name stricken from the ballot. According to the bible, a copy of which I can't seem to locate at this time, of Cree political junkies (the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement), a beneficiary may move to have a person's name taken off the ballot if they deem the nominee unsuitable to rule. It doesn't say it quite as concisely but you know how those documents are. Boring as hell and all in legalese to keep the proletariat in the dark and underfoot. But we shouldn't let the negative aspects of democracy stop us. Otherwise we'd never get anywhere.

As I was saying before I rudely interrupted myself, I won't even know until two working days before the vote who's to

be our leader. The deadline for the nominations was the 19th of August; the deadline for the nominees to either accept or decline said nominations is four days later on the 23rd. That gives the candidates two working days to reveal their platforms before election day on the 28th. Who wrote up these rules? Why are they in such a hurry? The voter deserves to know what the hell everybody who aspires for office is up to. What are the candidates' thoughts on employment? The youth? Repatriation of Cree "artifacts"? Hydro-Quebec spraying herbicides along power lines? Nepotism? Forestry? Multi-nationals dumping nuclear waste in our backyard? Do they prefer their drinks shaken or stirred? As for me, I'm, for, for, against, depends, against, against and both. But you probably already knew that. Because that's the kind of open, honest, callitlikeitiskindofguy that you would want or may already have voted for.

By the time you read this I might be: (a) Grand Chief Elect, (b) just another could've-been drowning in my stirred drink or was it shaken, (c) in Chisasibi investigating yet another sighting (this one witnessed by two Elders after the fireworks display.) Thanking you in advance. I remain,

Ndiamon

the Nation



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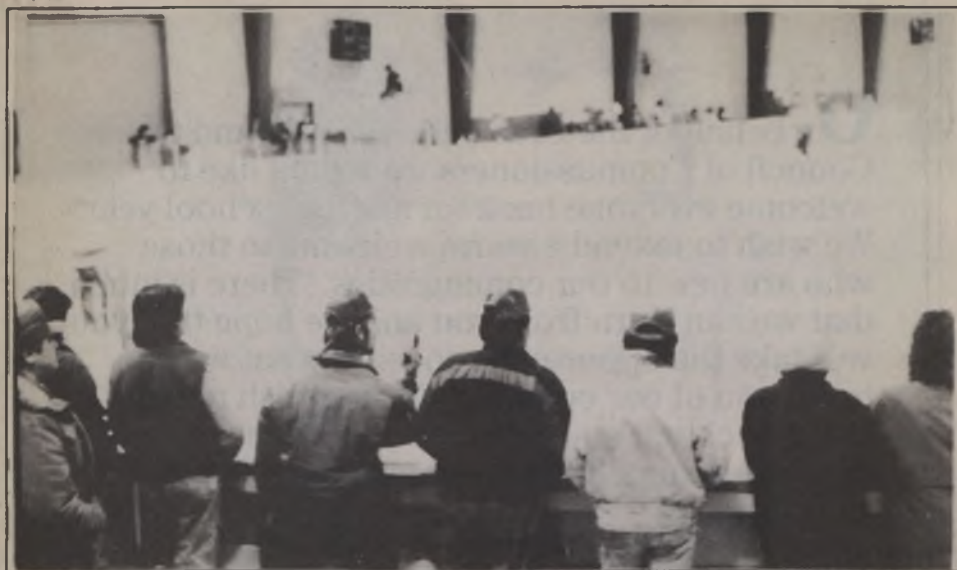
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No "DISGRACEFUL EVENTS," CREES TOLD

MIDGET AA OFFER LEAVES CREES PEEVED

Crees are reacting with amazement and bewilderment to a recent "peace offer" from the Midget AA Hockey League of Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

Until now, the Midget AA league has stubbornly refused to allow a Cree Nation team to participate in the league's games.

But pressure from minor-hockey officials and the mayors of several non-Native towns forced the league to change its mind in mid-August—sort of.

The league is now willing to make a compromise. Crees will still not be able to join the league, but they will be allowed to play a number of games against the teams in the league during the upcoming season.

These games will be considered exhibition or practice games and do not count in the overall league standings. The number of games will be about half the number which teams in the league will play.

Crees were also asked to guarantee there would be no "disgraceful events" during the games. They would still have to pay a fee to play those games and also cough up for the travel of non-Native teams playing in the Cree communities. Non-Natives are to be housed in Chibougamau at Cree cost, not in the Cree communities.

"That's not good enough for us," said Norman Gull of the Cree Regional Authority, who said the offer leaves Crees as second-class citizens.

"We won't do anything to hurt the kids' chances of playing hockey, but it's hard to accept when you know that our kids can play with the best of

them," he said.

"We still have problems with the offer. I think it needs more than just fine-tuning."

Crees are now exploring a discrimination law suit or a court injunction against the league.

They have also filed a complaint with the Fédération Québécoise de Hockey sur Glace accusing the league and the Chibougamau Ambassadeurs Midget AA team of discrimination and of violating the FQHG's rules, which include the principles in the Charter of Rights.

The league and Ambassadeurs are both members of the FQHG and can be expelled for violating the federation's regulations.

The complaint singles out the Ambassadeurs because of alleged racist statements made by members of the club.

Jean-Yves Bossé, president of the Abitibi chapter of the FQHG, called the league's offer "a little funny."

"I'm really disappointed—not a little, but a lot. I'm disappointed because we have people in Abitibi-Témiscamingue who will not be able to play hockey in the Abitibi league. Crees are part of Abitibi."

Bossé said the teams in the league are just afraid of losing to a Cree team: "That's for sure."

He described with awe a hockey team from Chisasibi he once saw play in Lebel-sur-Quévillon.

"They were VE-RY good. It was beautiful to watch."

League officials couldn't be reached for comment.

by Alex Roslin

HYDRO HERBICIDE SPRAYING WORRIES WASWANAPI

by Alex Roslin

Hydro-Quebec strikes again. People in Waswanipi are afraid to go bueberry-picking and rabbit-snaring along Highway 113 because Hydro-Quebec has sprayed herbicides underneath its power lines to kill off troublesome trees and shrubbery, report residents.

All along a 460-kilometre stretch of the highway from Chibougamau to Senneterre, plant life has turned from lush green to sickly brown in recent days after a chemical spraying campaign by Hydro, according to the reports.

Residents are especially concerned because the highway crosses a river right by Waswanipi's Culture Camp, where kids go fishing at this time of the year.

One trapper described the poisoned flora as "frightening" and "an eyesore."

"If it can kill plant life and animals survive off this, of course they'll be affected," said Paul Dixon, local Band Council member and Cree Trappers' Association rep.

"Everything works together. In the future, they could spray along the forestry roads where it's overgrown. I don't care what title they give to the lands—I, II, III. That's Cree territory. This can't happen in the future," he said.

"Even if it's not dangerous, how are they going to tell all these people who know nothing about chemicals? They've seen so much bad health in the wildlife."

The spraying is apparently done to save costs so Hydro-Quebec doesn't have to hire people to cut down nuisance trees and shrubs.

A Hydro spokesman told *The Nation* he did not know which chemicals were used or whether the spraying is done in just the North, or the whole of Quebec. He said he would get back to us but did not do so before we went to press.

"There is a longing in the heart of my people to reach and grasp that which is needed for our survival. There is a longing among the young of my nation to secure for themselves and their people the skills that will provide them with a sense of worth and purpose. They will be our new warriors. Their training will be much longer and more demanding than it was in older days. The long years of study will demand more determination, separation from home and family will demand endurance. But they will emerge with their hands held forward, not to receive welfare, but to grasp the place in society that is rightly ours."

CHIEF DAN GEORGE

On behalf of the Cree School board and the Council of Commissioners we would like to welcome everyone back for another school year. We wish to extend a warm welcome to those who are new to our communities. There is much that we can learn from you and we hope that you will take the opportunity to learn what we can teach you of our culture. We also wish to welcome back our staff at all of our offices that dedicate so much time to taking care of our students.

Wishing everyone another successful year.

Meegwetch.

Luke MacLeod, Chairman

**COMMISSION
SCOLAIRE CRIE**



**THE CREE
SCHOOL BOARD**

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MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY, 1911-1996

Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for the rights of First Nations women for 20 years, died at the age of 84 on August 21.

Two-Axe Earley became famous after founding Equal Rights for Indian Women, a group dedicated to striking down a section of the Indian Act that stripped Native women of their status when they married non-Natives.

Native men who married non-Natives were not subject to the same rules.

A Mohawk, she lost her own rights to live and own property in Kahnawake when she married an Irish-American, Edward Earley, in 1938. Two-Axe Earley's grandfather was Chief Martin Two-Axe, the last medicine man in Kahnawake.

Two-Axe Earley launched her campaign after the death of a fellow Mohawk woman living in exile in New York. She believed that her friend Florence died of a broken heart because the Indian Act forced her out of her community.

Her campaign took her across the country and caught the attention of late Quebec Premier René Lévesque. When Two-Axe Earley was denied time to present her views to a 1982 first ministers' conference, Lévesque gave her his chair so she could make her statement.

Lévesque also loaned her and 20 friends his government jet so they could travel to Toronto when York University awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1981. She was also a recipient of the Order of Quebec in 1985. Last winter, she accepted a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Two-Axe Earley's campaign met success in 1986 when the Indian Act was amended and she became the first woman to regain her Native status.

"When the Canadian government restores Indian women and their children to their rightful place in their Indian culture, Canada's own honour will be restored," she once wrote. "There are no jackpots to be won—only human needs to be met. There should be no price tag for honour and justice."

A memorial service was held on August 24 at the St. Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake.

—Alex Roslin

RECORD NUMBER OF NOMINEES IN ELECTION

The time has come again for you, our readers, the Cree electorate, to prove or disprove that old saying, "If voting could change anything it would be illegal."

Yes, it is election season.

An unprecedented number of candidates has been nominated for the two top jobs in the Cree Nation.

For Grand Chief, there are 10 nominees: Kenny Blacksmith, Matthew Coon Come, Kenneth Gilpin, Ted Moses, Matthew Mukash, Neil Diamond, Steven Bearskin, Billy Diamond, Violet Pachano and Roderick Pachano.

Fourteen individuals have been nominated for Deputy Grand Chief: Matthew Coon Come, Ted Moses, Kenny Blacksmith, Matthew Mukash, Peter Coon, Dianne Reid, James A. Shecapio, Abel Bosum, Bill Namagoose, Kenneth Gilpin, Kenny Loon, Violet Pachano, Eddie Pachano and Margaret Fireman.

Nominations were closed on August 19. We received the list on August 22, the day we went to press.

As of press time, few of the nominees had said if they would accept their nominations. John Henry Wapachee, Chief Returning Officer, said he didn't expect most of the acceptances until the last day—August 23. The one candidate for Grand Chief who had accepted as of press time was Neil Diamond.

In the run-up to the election, rumours were flying about whether the current

Grand Chief, Matthew Coon Come, would accept his nomination. When we went to press, indications were that he would.

The elections are on August 28.

Two local elections are also attracting great interest.

Three candidates will be on the ballot for the Chief job in Wemindji: Walter Hughboy (the incumbent), Clarence Tomatuk and Reggie Mark.

The community's nomination meeting attracted a "fantastic turnout" of 240 residents, according to Tom Wadden, the local returning officer.

"A lot of young people came out. It was fantastic."

The election is on Sept. 12.

In Waswanipi, John Kitchen (the incumbent), Paul Gull, Allan Happyjack Sr. and Johnny Saganash are running for Chief. The election is on August 29.

CORRECTION

In our last issue, we reported a partial list of nominees for the position of Grand Chief.

The list we received was incorrect and did not come from the Chief Returning Office, John Henry Wapachee.

Three of the individuals we mentioned—Paul Gull, Henry Mianscum and Norman Gull—were not actually nominated.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

COUNCIL OF THE CREE NATION
OF MISTISSINI



Message to the Students of Mistissini

The road to recovery
is charted and
there is a **FUTURE** and you're it.
Good Luck to all Mistissini
Students returning to school,
at all levels.

Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini.



We,

the Ouje-Bougoumou Chief and Council

would like to extend our congratulations to the students who will continue their journey through life in the educational centers of their choice. In the words of our Eldest Councilor, life has many portages, in your pursuit of your educational goals we can look at the educational experience as a portage, it may be long and hard but when you have succeeded and reach the end of the portage you can feel that you have accomplished something great. We would like to extend our encouragement in your endeavors in your educational goals and we hope to be there with your families when you have achieved the educational goals you have set for yourself.

In your journey may you overcome every obstacle; as it is in a journey there are several portages or rocks just below the surface of the water; alcohol and drugs can be viewed in the same manner; Obstacles to be avoided.

The choices that we make are ours to make, make them wisely, and know that as your family we are just a phone call away.

An Open Letter To The Students of the Nemiscau First Nation:

DEAR STUDENT,

Welcome back to the 1996-97 school year. This year will provide you with new skills and information which will help you make decisions which will influence your choice of future challenges.

- **MATH** will teach you how to reason your way through problems.
- **LANGUAGES** will help you open your mind to alternative ways of expressing yourself.
- **SOCIAL SCIENCES** will allow you to see the world — a world of choices and expectations.
- **LITERATURE** can open new worlds of thought and enliven your experiences with new characters and places.
- **CULTURE** reminds you of skills and knowledge that belongs to only the Cree — knowledge which has withstood years of hardship and is still there to guide us.
- **SCIENCE** can teach you about the stars — or the world in which we live.
- **ART** will allow you to be creative and free in your thinking.

All of these skills and new information bases will be essential for your adult life. We at the Nemiscau First Nation wish you to do your best throughout the school year — you are the leaders of tomorrow and we need you to be well prepared.



*Sincerely,
Chief George Wapachee*

Congratulations

**TO ALL CREE STUDENTS
WHO ARE RETURNING
TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR!
We are all proud of you!**

We want to encourage you to continue on to higher education in order to make your career goals a reality! As future leaders, your education will be a positive contribution towards the development of our communities.

**Chief Billy Diamond, Band Council and
Members of the Waskaganish First Nation**



Chisasibi's 3rd Annual Invitational Softball Tournament and 2nd Annual James Bay Fastpitch Challenge '96 July 18-21, 1996



Chisasibi Fans doing the wave

ALL PHOTOS BY JIMMY SAM



Adrian Chiskamash of Southern Boys Slow pitch

"I said I'm #1" O.J. Bulldogs player



Fast Pitch Champs,
Chisasibi VJ's Video



John Sam, Southern Boys slow pitch

Semi-Finals

Women's Softball

Waskaganish 7 vs. Wild Cats 0

Men's Softball

Chisasibi Comets 14 vs. Southern Boys 11

Whapmagoostui 4 vs. Waswanipi 0

Men's Fastpitch

V.J.'s Video 3 vs. Waskaganish 1

O.J. Bulldogs 6 vs. Chisasibi Jays 5

Finals

Women's Softball

Chisasibi Blue Jays 9 vs. Waskaganish 5

Most Valuable Player: Mabel Napash (Blue Jays)

Men's Softball

Chisasibi Comets 6 vs. Whapmagoostui 11

MVP: Robert Auclair ("CUTEST GUY")

Men's Fastpitch

Chisasibi V.J.'s Video 9 vs. O.J. Bulldogs 1

MVP: Roy Neacappo

A BIG STEP

Youth head up healing gathering

By Will Nicholls and Alex Roslin

Tina Petawabano was the Coordinator for a Cree Nation Gathering for Healing, held in Mistissini in August. We interviewed Petawabano in a teepee on the second last day of the Gathering at Mistissini's culture camp. The camp has grown from past years and is a must-see for anyone visiting this community as well as being the perfect location for the Gathering. The Band Council has also purchased a large pontoon boat to make access easier for people wishing to go back and forth. During the Gathering we noticed that it had a lot of use.

The Nation: Is this the first Gathering of this type?

Tina: Yes, this is the first one. It's actually a follow-up of a Youth Forum that was held in Mistissini in 1994. Out of that came a report of recommendations put forth by the 60 youth who participated. We followed up a recommendation that the youth, well actually everyone, come together and discuss the social issues that were brought up. These were issues that the youth perceived that needed to be talked about.

What do you hope will come out of it?

First of all, there was already a major step with the report that came out of the youth forum. The youth spoke up and had a lot of concerns about things we didn't really know were going on. Now we have this gathering and we hope we'll keep on talking and learn to open up more than we already have. It's going to be a slow process, but at least it's coming. It's opening up where we need to hear them and we need to see what is being said.

As a youth—since I'm one myself—we are looking at what we are having to face in the communities, such as suicide, sexual abuse and issues like that. They need to be more opened up and we're hoping this will wake up some people, leaders, parents. To open up their eyes and say this is what we're facing right now. Please listen to us and help us.

Are there a lot of youth attending this forum?

We were hoping for a minimum of 10 delegates from each community and we managed to get participants from four communities. Well, five with Mistissini. It was not only youth who attended but Elders who came along from the other communities, as well as NNADAP workers and counselors. I would have hoped for more youth to come but I think we've had a good turnout. The past days we didn't have such a great turn-out from Mistissini youth but today has been very good. From what I've seen I'm very happy with what's come up so far.

So the results have been positive so far?

Yes, I've seen a lot of Elders and parents talking about their own experiences with their children. It's been very touching with all the stories. It's opened up my mind to see that's what they're thinking about us. But as I said I would've hoped for more youth to be involved and listening and opening up.



Tina Petawabano

They might even be scared to open up in front of adults because at the Youth Forum there were no adults. It was just all youth and they opened up. They said this is what we hear and this is what we see and nothing is being done about it. I think in these settings they might be a little shy and worried that when they go home their parents might be saying why did that person say that.

So what kind of things are they saying?

So far what we have is a lot of them saying we need more gatherings like this in the future to keep it going. When they share like that—such as growing up in a violent home, the social issues like having a friend who committed suicide—those are the types of social issues from what I've seen so far in the workshops that I've managed to peek into. I'd like to stay but with all the running around I have to do, I don't have the time I'd like to have to fully participate.

When I get a chance to sit, I find that a lot of the older people are talking out more than the youth are. That may be because the youth are thinking, "Okay, I can't really say anything here; it looks like an adult thing"—but it isn't. It's geared for the youth along with everyone else, too. Maybe in the future there should be a gathering where it's only the youth coming from all the communities.

A lot of them have been listening to the Elders or their parents talking about what they would like to see happen or their own personal testimonies. But I think a lot of it was that a lot of the youth haven't opened up yet at the gatherings, workshops and healing circles. At some of the workshops I heard youth say, "I don't have anything to say," or, "I'll pass."

But the thing is that they came. That is a sign that they want to help themselves. I appreciate that that in itself is a big step. They came on their own time and they weren't paid to attend. I think



that's where it all begins. They came to attend and listen. They might not have opened up like we hoped, but they came and we appreciate that. It makes me happy to see them here.

Do you feel there has been a consensus on some concerns that have been raised?

Yes, especially with violence, which was such a hot topic. We not only see it in our own homes, we actually see it on the streets—when people are drinking. That was something people were talking about. While it was about values, it was something everyone could relate to. Everyone shared their experiences. They talked about seeing a fight, no one feeling good about it, but no one stopping it either.



Gordon Petawabano

Yes, I think people have come together in the workshops. For example, the Teaching and Healing Circles that took place after each workshop. I found them really nice. They weren't big, the biggest was about 25 people. The smaller it is the better it was because I find that people tend to work better than the 50-people-per-workshop I had hoped for. But now I think it was good the way it turned out with the amount of people who attended each workshop. The healing circles were something that brought everyone together. One of the things was that the workshop was just that, while what was said in the circle stayed in the circle. People appreciated that.

Do you expect solutions from the Gathering to be presented to the people?

Right now, not really, because tomorrow we have the group discussion day where all the facilitators come together with the ideas and recommendations on what could be done along with other suggestions on the follow-up to this conference. This isn't the end because we don't want to just end this conference and have nowhere to go after attending it.

And I mean, how would you see it? A youth attends the workshops,

opens up and goes home? Then there's nothing done. They could say, "Well, that was fun. I am able to open up but can I have some more now?" That would be a dead-end so tomorrow we'll have people speak, at minimum the facilitators anyway. There are two facilitators who couldn't be there but we've asked them to mandate someone else to report. We have a few presenters who will be coming in to talk on their experiences, where they show how they got out of what they lived through. They talk about what they're doing today.

These are people like Matthew Iserhoff Jr. and Lisa Petagumskum. We plan to have an elderly couple, Sam and Minnie Awashish, come and speak, to do a presentation because they attended all the workshops and to talk about the Gathering because I thought it was really nice of them to come and attend at their own time. We asked them to attend whenever they could and they would appear every morning and would leave in the evening. So I guess it shows they are very patient also. They listen and they'll talk when they have to, but I feel it was very good and nice to see that they were listening a lot to what people had to say.

Is there anyone you wanted to thank?

Oh Lord, I want to thank everyone! Where's that list? (*laughter*)... I'd like to thank Josée Quesnel, my boss who works for Mississini Band Council. I would like to thank her for the opportunity to be involved in organizing this Gathering. It's something I won't forget. It isn't easy getting everyone together. I would like to thank the working group on healing in Mississini. It was formed this year from all the entities and businesses from Mississini. That's including the clinic and the churches to get together to organize events like this. All of them were here to help out where needed.



Charles Esau

I would also like to thank the Community Action Program. That's Gordon Pet, who's standing here. I think he's making sure I thank him (*laughter*)... Also, Philomene Mianscum. They've been a lot of help. They've supported me at times when I wasn't sure whether it was going to work or not. They did a lot of running around with me to make sure that things were done. I would like to thank two students. They were here on their own time. They would come in the morning and leave in the evening. Those people are Lillian Brian and Sophie Matoush. I asked them, "Why are you here? I really appreciate this—it's a lot of work." So I have to say I really appreciated that.

Thanks to the Chief and Council for providing the funding to make the Gathering possible. I would like to thank all the other sponsors who made this dream come true.

Coming On CBC TV Maamuitaau

September 7 and 8

Can a native school board successfully teach culture to its students? **Maamuitaau** this week reveals a new approach to teaching Cree culture within the school curriculum. Anna Bosum has created a hands-on experience that is having great results in the Cree School Board. Also featured are results of the latest annual Cree School Board Art Exhibition held in Oujé-Bougoumou.

September 14 and 15

The people of Oujé-Bougoumou have had to move many times in past. However, since their last move and with the election of Chief Abel Bosum, their community has taken hold and is thriving. **Maamuitaau** examines the history of this settlement and the success of their leader and community. Also featured is a look at the work and challenges that Cree police face in Oujé-Bougoumou and the new video equipment they use in the community.

Watch Maamuitaau:

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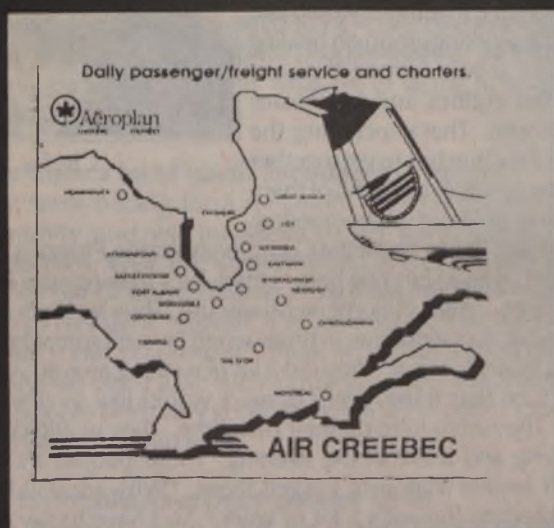
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Results from our

**2nd Invitational Volleyball Tournament
in Nemaska on August 9-10-11, 1996.**

WOMEN'S DIVISION:

Team Name:	Sets Won:	Cash Prizes:	
Chisasibi	(3)	\$3,000.00	Champions
Nemaska I	(0)	\$1,500.00	Finalists

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

Best Setter:	Elizabeth Rabbitskin	Mistissini I
Best Offensive:	Mary Ingram	Nemaska I
Best Defensive:	Sharon Bosum	Mistissini I
Most Valuable Player:	Sarah Glisky	Chisasibi
Best Sportsmanship Team:	Whapmagoostui	

MEN'S DIVISION:

Team Name:	Sets Won:	Cash Prizes:	
Mistissini Eénou	(3)	\$3,000.00	Champions
Mistissini Skyhawks	(1)	\$1,500.00	Finalists

INDIVIDUALS AWARDS:

Best Setter:	Roderick Petawabano Sr.	Mistissini Eénou
Best Offensive:	John Brien	Mistissini Eénou
Best Defensive:	John Brien	Mistissini Eénou
Most Valuable Player:	Patrice Dominique	Mistissini Eénou
Best Sportsmanship Team:	Mistissini Dream Team	

SPECIAL THANKS:

To the teams that participated in our tournament; 1 team from Chisasibi, 2: Wemindji, 1: Whapmagoostui and specially to Mistissini that brought 5 teams.

Certified Referees that came all the way from Val d'Or: Real Godin and Martin Gilbert
Sponsors: Nemaska Band Council, Nemaska Development Corporation and Cree Regional Authority and the people of Nemaska for their generosity.

From the Nemaska Volleyball Invitational Committee

PUTTING THE CREE BACK INTO THE C.S.B.

An Interview with C.S.B. Chairman Luke MacLeod

By Will Nicholls and Alex Roslin

Elections for the Chairman of the Cree School Board will be taking place in September. So *The Nation* decided it was time to put the present Chairman on the hot seat of public scrutiny and tell all. This is what we got when we met with him at the CSB's head office in Mississauga. Luke MacLeod, the present Chairman of the Cree School Board, talks candidly about the CSB's accomplishments in the past year, relations between teachers, the communities and the CSB, the current Collective Agreement negotiations and the Cree Education Act.

The Nation: It's been almost a year since you've taken office. What do you feel has been some of the accomplishments in the past year?

Luke MacLeod: I would have to say that the most important thing we've done this year is the Cree as the Language of Instruction Program. The Council of Commissioners and the Chiefs met back in 1988 and they request that the Council of Commissioners start implementing Cree as the language of instruction. Which is the way it is written in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

We started implementing it and we passed a resolution that says by 1999 every community should have Cree as the language of instruction up to Grade 3. The community of Mississauga will be starting this fall in Grade 1. Next year they'll proceed to Grade 2 and then to Grade 3 the year after. The other community that'll be starting this year is Nemaska. Ouje-Bougoumou and Waswanipi will be starting next year so they might actually do it by the year 2000. Basically, they can't start because of resources. They don't have the people right now.

But all the other communities have already started. There were two pilot projects, one that started in Waskaganish and the other in Chisasibi. Chisasibi has already gone up to Grade 3. The other communities are up to Grade 2 and some are going into Grade 3 this year. So along the coast, they have gone quite ahead on it.

But to me, that was the most important thing we've done. To finally put a schedule on it so that everyone will be following that schedule to implement Cree as the language of instruction to Grade 3. On top of that, we are looking at work we'll be doing in Grades 4, 5 and 6 in the future. We've also stated that Cree language instruction must be taught in all the schools right up to Secondary V.

With Cree as the language of instruction, I can see one problem that you're probably already aware of. I've heard that there have been some complaints from the non-Native members of the community about this sort of thing. What's your response?

We've had about five cases we've heard from. It's mostly Cree School Board employees who have young children who were affected. What happened in the past and in the other communities where we already have Cree as the language of instruction



implemented—like in Chisasibi, where it's our fourth year now—what they usually did was put the children in a grade level where they would not be affected. Special arrangements were made.

More recently, though, the communities believe that cannot be done and there is no special status given to anyone. So everyone has to follow this. What we've decided to do is assist those students to acquire the skills to go to those classrooms. We must recognize that there are other languages but also at the same time we are trying to implement our language. We are pushing to have Cree language taught in there. So right now all we are doing is we are going to assist them.

Will you be warning new teachers coming into the communities on this policy?

Yes, we are, and as well we've sent out a memo from my office here to all the Cree entities informing them that this is the policy and this is what will be followed so that they can talk to their own employees or future employees whom they hire. We are making sure that everyone is informed of this.

What types of results have you gotten from the program? We've heard some good things, that the kids are really motivated and enthusiastic. If they can learn their own language really well, then maybe they will later be able to learn the second one better, too...

That is probably one of the hardest things we've had to promote. Many people believe that the children will be held back. They believe their children will not have the skills to continue in whatever language they chose to continue their studies in.

We've dispelled that by having a doctor, Emily Faries, do a study for us on all other minority groups or other First Nations where

they have started this. The study has shown the students are much better off learning their language first, mastering their language first.

But the most important people who have shown us this is working are the teachers themselves, the people who are working with the children. We have teachers in our system who have been there about 20 years. These are the people who have gone on learn Cree literacy—to be fluent in speaking and writing Cree so that they can teach the Grade 1, 2 and 3 levels. They were former teachers of English or French.

They see the difference and they are the ones who tell us. When we were doing our tours, the teachers when they spoke had tears in their eyes because they realized the difference. They said when they taught 20 children before, they would have 10 of them who would be a problem when they were teaching in English or French. They said, We've got a problem; we have to give them special assistance. They can't learn. They have learning difficulties.

Now that they're teaching in Cree, sometimes there would be one or even none. Now they realize that they were pushed to teach this and they truly believed that they were teaching. But now they realize that those children just did not understand because they did not have the language. That is the biggest difference and you hear them speak about it all the time. Those who have been teaching in Cree for the past two or three years say it is totally different and it is almost like they were ashamed of what they were forced to do.

How about the teachers in say Grade 4 who are seeing the first students who came through this program?

I think in Chisasibi this is the first year that you'll be having children going from Grade 3 into Grade 4. There is one thing, though, that we found out right away and this was brought to our attention by principals. English or French was taught to the students as if it was their first language or their mother tongue. We have to change that so it is taught to them as a second language, so we give them assistance along the way. I mean it's not totally Cree up to Grade 3. At Grade 1, there's one subject not in Cree, but it really starts happening at Grade 2 that they start learning their second language. Now, it's going to be taught to them as a second language, not as if they knew it already.

That is something we realized that we have to do. So the curriculum is going to be changing a bit. For instance, if they're reading a story there'll be a glossary at the back explaining the meaning of the different words. The teachers will make sure that the students understand what they're reading instead of treating them as if they already know that.

This is one thing about Cree as the Language of Instruction—we are starting to pinpoint where the problems were and are.

Another topic of interest is the feds and provincial government deciding to unilaterally exclude the Crees from discussions on funding for Cree education. What's the School

Board's response going to be?

We're going to have a court hearing to deal with that. We're asking for that because Canada and Quebec have come to an agreement without consulting the Crees at all. Clearly it says in the James Bay Agreement that the Crees must be consulted. The reality is that the Crees are supposed to be part of a tri-partite process. The funding in general is under the Crees. That is clear in the Agreement. When Quebec and Canada were meeting, wherever they were meeting, we were trying to get in. I sent out about four or five letters to two or three different ministers trying to at least have a seat at these meetings and we were refused or we were told, "You'll be notified."

Eventually we were told they had come to an agreement concerning the outstanding moneys Canada owed to Quebec in regards to Cree education. So in May when everyone was out hunting, they announced they had come to an agreement and made a big press release on this. One of our major concerns is that they already have started to determine guidelines for future funding.

But they never involved the Crees in all this. So we're going for a judgment on this. We're saying they broke the JBNQA. This is something we'll be seeing in court very soon.

I guess another hot topic is that the collective agreement with Cree

School Board employees is coming up and there'll be negotiations for it. I understand through the rumour mill that the union would like to axe the Cree Replacement Policy.

They do?

It's the rumours we've been hearing.

Well, let me put it this way. The Council of Commissioners will never agree to that. The Cree Replacement Policy is in all of our collective agreements and I think every knows why it has to be there. I remember years ago when we were just setting up the School Board, I was a young councillor from Mistissini at that time and that was the concern—that we have Cree control of our education and the only way to have that is to have our own people in there, from teachers all the way to the top level. That is how we will have full control.

So you can understand why it had to be there. We didn't have qualified people to begin with but now we have more and more people finishing their education. To be able to work in this field, we have to be able to put them in. That's why it's there and why it has been from the beginning.

Has there been use of that policy?



More and more we are beginning to use it. As I've said, people are finishing their post-secondary education. We're putting them in there and it's their right. If you have a qualified Cree teacher coming back to whichever community, walks into the school and shows us that paper and says they want to teach, if they are qualified at that level, you have to put them in. The person with the least tenure who is a non-beneficiary is replaced. That person may move on to another school or be let go. If they're let go, their name is added to the list for future openings. If they have two or more years, then they are put on the list and we have to let them know as soon as there's an opening.

How about the problems with replacing some problem teachers because of the collective agreement—teachers involved in sexual misconduct or who have racist attitudes towards their students. How would something like that get in?

Well, first of all, it is very difficult to get all the information on whoever we are hiring. It's only sometimes when we are informed by some other means that we do find out. Let's say someone committed a crime. It depends on what the crime is, of course. If they've already paid for the crime then there is nothing we can do about that. They've paid in society's eyes and that how the law looks at it. We would be concerned if it was a crime involving young people that could put our students in jeopardy—then that's different.

There's only so much information you're allowed to retrieve. And honestly too, I've seen where people are forced to resign because it causes less problems than to outright fire them. Because then you go through a long litigation and any little mistake you make, it's thrown out of court.

I think it's been done in the Cree School Board and every other school board does it to. It's because of the protection that is offered to them through their unions, I guess up to a certain point. Short of someone actually doing a criminal act, an obscene act, something of that nature to the students, we have to keep them in the system. But we are working with our people so they are more skilled at looking after this so that people who might be mistreating their children will be reprimanded right away. If the situation continues, they'll be suspended. There's a procedure that has to be followed.

I know what you're talking about. I have to face this as a school committee member and we felt we never got the support from the Council of the Commissioners. But now that I've been a Commissioner for five years, I see what the problem is and it's a big problem for us. To give you an example, if you look at the Civil Code, which governs everyone who is employed, the protections it contains aren't made for us. It doesn't reflect the way Crees see things. It doesn't consider Cree values. It doesn't consider Cree customs, but yet this thing is brought into Cree territory, dropped on us and we're told we have to use it. That's our biggest problem—we have to use it and we don't have anything. We have never developed anything involving our customs.

So now you have a community where the School Board is caught in between. The community is saying we have our rights; we have the right to protect our children the way we see fit. And it looks like it's the CSB that is bringing it in and we are not.

This is something that has to be looked at very closely. It could be detrimental to the School Board, but also to that individual who has come to work in our community. I'll give you an example. Here we have to place people in houses coming from outside. Some of them with two or three bedrooms are by themselves because they don't want to live together. Yet, there are Crees living

two to three families to a house. And this person wants to be looked at as the same as our people. How can they expect that when they ask for this type of treatment? I don't know if the union knows this is what it's doing.

But this is what we see. How can you expect to be looked at the same when you ask to be treated as royalty compared to the other residents of the community? Then you want the respect of the people and have them come and speak to you about their children.

Will the School Board be looking at some of these things during the negotiations?

There's one thing that's happened this year. It's the first time it's happened. The collective agreements are being renegotiated and instead of having two or three people speaking on behalf of a group, they've made it into a more round-table discussion type. Everybody is allowed their say and this is working much better. Especially our Native employees; people are able to start talking about Cree values to the union representatives, to the teacher representatives, which is much better. So this round of negotiations is going well. The agreement should be in place by December.

The Cree Education Act is another interesting development.

Well, it's always been there. Since 1978, with the formation of the CSB, we fell under the old Education Act. In fact there was an annex added specifically referring to the Crees and the Inuit. Since then there's been three changes in the Act and each time the Crees have been approached to adopt the new one. Clearly it's not in the interest of the Cree School Board to just take the new Act. So we've always been governed by the Education Act of 1978 since the CSB was formed.

But the people have always stated that there should be a Cree Education Act. So right now we are going through the consultation process with the people. We've already had a group set up for a couple of years who looked at this. We are trying to look at this overall because it has to tie in with the new things that we are doing as well, like Cree as the Language of Instruction. There's always been the demand for more local control, so that has to be tied into the Cree Education Act as well.

So this year, the consultation process will be happening. But it is one of the most difficult things as very few people know what the Education Act is now, including myself as a matter of fact. All I know is that we are governed by an Education Act and every time we decide something, our legal council lets us know when we have refer to the Act. It's the same for the other Commissioners as well. But if we create our own act then we'll all know all about it inside out.

By the end of next fall, we hope to have a draft ready for the government to look at. This will be ongoing. Right now we have our coordinator working on it and two commissioners who are heading it. They will be discussing it at our next meeting and there will be a conference on it.

Will it be a public conference?

Yes, most of the school committees will be invited guests. It's not going to be huge. Mostly selected people. We'll be working with local school committees and ask them to send two or three representatives. This will probably be happening before December. That'll be decided in our Val d'Or meeting this month. I have a meeting with the minister and a lot of these things will be brought to her attention including the Canada-Quebec agreement.



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TO ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF OF THE WABANNUTAO EYYOU SCHOOL AND THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

The 1996-97 school year is starting. It is a new beginning for everyone, new things to learn and new experiences to share.

On behalf of the Members of the Cree Nation of Eastmain and its Council, let's make this year the best for all. Working hard and perseverance are the keys to success and we know that each of the students have the power within themselves to be the best. We know that everyone in the community, parents, relatives, friends and, most important, the Elders wish to show through this message their constant support for the students.

We also wish our graduates who are pursuing their advanced education the best in the coming year. All of us know the importance of education. We must always follow our dreams, reach higher, work harder and strive to succeed in order to build the Cree Nation. Our Elders showed us the path of the future: to always be the best that we can be. The students of today are our Leaders of tomorrow! Let us make it a year of achievements for everyone. Good Luck! Our prayers are with you at all times.

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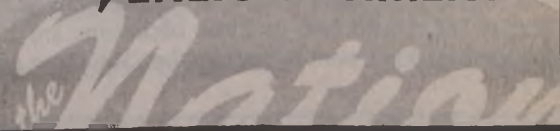
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wishes students a year of

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→ **ENLIGHTENMENT**



IN RECOVERY

By Charles Esau

This article appeared in the first issue of "Miyupimaatisuu Dipajamoon," a newsletter of the Waskaganish Wellness Society.

Watchia! This is a historical moment. For the record, we are attempting different ways of reaching out to the community, so on behalf of the Waskaganish Wellness Society, we extend our greetings to all our readers. As a summer placement in drug and alcohol counseling and other social service work, it gives me a chance to exercise the skills that I've learned.

For those who are still struggling with alcohol and drugs, I want to tell you we are here to help if you want to quit. Only you will know when that will be. The Wellness Centre provides this service for you. This form of communication is a way to notify you of upcoming events and programs available. Eventually this newsletter will be in Cree. ...

Where do I begin? I will start by introducing myself. Hi, my name is Charles and I am a recovering alcoholic and a survivor of multi-generational trauma from residential school and childhood family violence.

I was not aware of how the past childhood trauma can make its effect today. I passed on the behaviour I had learned towards my children and my partner. All of them I can say today that I love very much. I lost control to that ugly disease of alcoholism and drug addiction. This business became so intense I needed help. I could not do it alone. The help that I needed was not available so I had to go for treatment at Rainbow Lodge in Wikwemikong, Ontario.

Only when I identified the problems from childhood upbringing was I able to understand my situation today. I also saw that the dysfunction at the time was passed on to the people from the previous generation before that and so on.

Today I'm working on getting my life in a good orderly direction for the past four or five years.

I have attempted this in 1983; I was not ready at the time. Today I have managed to abstain from alcohol and drugs over three years.

I never felt so damn good!

Sobriety is a powerful medicine that we are passing around as much as we used to pass around that bottle, joint or line.

Recovery is an educational process. I continue the process of healing, by educating myself formally and informally. I trained

at Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario. I graduated and received my certificate in Alcohol and Drug Counseling. That was where I found... me! They say that one has to help himself before one can help others.

More training was available at the Friendship Centre in North Bay, where I worked as a student placement in the Relapse Prevention Program for eight weeks. The 10 months have been a rewarding experience in 1994-95. I have done my first year in the Native Social Service Worker program in 1995-96. The second year will begin in September until April of 1997. There are Native seminars, conferences and workshops that I attend. I make contact with people of Native communities in the United States and Canada. Most Native people are struggling in the same healing process.

As a Cree, I am proud to share the knowledge I have been given and continue to pass it on. As Native people we share our strengths and our struggles in helping to build healthier and safer communities. We are paddling the same canoe, in different waters, but we must continue to move forward. That is a struggle in our daily lives. When we reach those healing waters we are thankful. The strength is from the ONE who watches over us, our CREATOR.

Meegwetch.

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To all Students



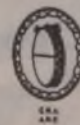
The Grand Council of the Crees would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who is returning to their studies this year. Creating a stronger future is our right, not a privilege. Through education we can ensure that our youth will have an opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of the path they choose to follow. We sincerely hope that all students will hold strong to their dreams and they will enjoy a year of challenges and success. Have a very successful year.



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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
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I'd like to wish a happy birthday to my grandma Svlda whose birthday is on

Oh my goodness! look who's turning 14 on May 15, 96. well it's Davidee. happy birthday! Too bad we're not there to

CLASSIFIEDS

celebrate with we hope you have fun. from all your bros and sisters. xxx we love you.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to Joey Blacksmith on May 29. Happy birthday my love! Hope this will be as special as you are. I love you with all my heart. love always, May. xoxoxo.

A special birthday going out to our Manager Amway "Reggie" celebrating his 35th birthday on August 4, 1996. We hope you give us a discount on the month of August. From your family in Ouje-Bougoumou.

This is a special belated birthday wish going out to my one and only honey bun Sydney Coonishish. Sorry I forgot about it but you seem to look younger every year and never bothered to remember. Love always, Sarah. xoxoxoxo

Happy birthday to Winnie (Trapper) Gunner on August 4, 1996. So, auntie how old are you again? Happy birthday and many more to come from your nephew Lindy Trapper.

Birthday wishes going out to my sister Weena on August 24 and Harry on the 20th. Hope you have fun and take care, don't party too much. Always, sis Karen Emily and the boys, Israel and Isaiah. Hugs and kisses sent your way.

Birthday greetings to my brother Harry Bosum who will be celebrating his birth-

OUR PICK

I would like to wish a happy 18th birthday to a wonderful daughter, Michelle Hester, whose birthday is on August 26, 1996. Years have gone by so fast. It seems like yesterday when I held you on my shoulders. You used to cry for me to hold you whenever I wanted to leave. A lot of things have changed as the years went by. You'll be 18 years old and you hardly cry nowadays. you're turning into a lovely lady. We (me and mom) will always be there if you need us. (Now I have to ask you to move out- Just kidding) Love, dad B.W. Moar Jr.

day on August 20. have a wonderful day. too bad I won't be here to bug you anymore during school year! but I'll be seeing you on weekends. From Karen.

Birthday wishes going out to a very special someone in our life and proud to say that she's one of our best friends and this lovely, intelligent and can't forget beautiful goes by the name of Awashish, Naomi (Gougouch) Awashish from Mistissini Lake, July 27th she will be turning the big "20" Anyway, thinking of you wherever you are! All our love, Shania E. Twain and Cindy D. Crawford. xoxoxoxoxox. have you guessed?

Happy birthday to our mom Yvette Pepabano. Her birthday is on August 1st, 96. We love you mom and we always will. Love always, your children, Matthew, Corrina, Nathan and Nathan and little Jean Paul (chisasibi)

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to

our friend in OJ. her name is Elizabeth Wapachee. her birthday is on July 26, 96. happy birthday to our friend. hey! have a nice birthday. from our friends in Waswanipi. Sheila H. and Sarah I.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my love Elizabeth Wapachee on July 26, 96. happy birthday honey. have a wonderful birthday and have lots of fun. from your love in Waswanipi. Pshinish.

To two precious boy Lorne Visitor and Taryn Shash on celebrating their birthdays. Taryn on July 28, happy 1st and Lorne on August 26th. Happy 5th. Please boys, no more headaches for mom. Love U. From the Danyluks's (Wemindji)

Happy 24th birthday to my mom Lynda Trapper on August 9, 1996 and many more to come. I will always love you mom. Once again Happy birthday. I love you so much. From your son who really

loves you. Lindy Tyron Trapper.

We would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to our precious daughter, Tanisha Faith Kawapit on July 21, 1996. It's the greatest gift we had ever been given. We love you very much. Lots of hugs and kisses. Love always, mom and dad. Whapmagoostui.

Wishing a happy birthday to our brother Allan Gull who will turn 22 years old on August 10, 1996. We just want to wish you the best and many more to come. From your sisters Clara Gull, Mary-Anne Gull, Shirley G.

Happy birthday to Kerwin Gilpin on June 12. We love you and have a great birthday. Love always, grandpa George, grandma Margaret and family.

We want to wish a happy birthday to Stanley Gilpin on June 29. have a great birthday and don't party too much. From mom, dad, sister and brothers.

We want to wish a happy birthday to Jeremy Shanush on June 30 and many more to come. Love always, grandpa, grandma and family.

Happy birthday to my sister Winnie who will be celebrating her 25th birthday on August 4, 1996. Many more to come. With love, sister Linda.

Birthday wishes to my spe-



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cial grandmas Sally Herodier on August 3, Bessie Napash on August 17, Marjorie Bobbish on August 20. happy birthday to you all. I love you very much. from your one and only Harvey. xxoxoxo.

A huge birthday wish going out to my oldest cuz, Michael Petawabano. heard you were celebrating your what? Thirty second? on August 9, 96. I guess it's time to start keeping those fire extinguishers on hand now for each coming birthday eh?! P.S. here is a little secret: Oil of Olay. Love, from your younger cuz.

We would like to wish our grandpa a happy birthday on August 12. We like the way you spoil us and we love you. from our grandchildren Alyssia (Boubounesh), Nigel (nigo), Kyle (Kyoty), Lyndon (lary shtikuansh), Delmer (Delamukan)

This one is specially dedicated to our niece Trista Lanny Cheechoo, our little sweetheart "teedah" on your eighth birthday on August 8th, 96. We wish you love, joy, happiness and most of all laughter. have fun!!! "n' happy birthday!! Teedah. love you, Heather and Eleanor. xxx,

Belated birthday greetings goin' out to our little nephew Sonny Boy who turned four years young on July 8th, 96. Thinkin' of you guys in the west coast (Edm.) Bla bla bla, with hugs 'n' kisses, especially to you brats!! Nigel and Nat. Again, happy birthday to you!! Honey. Missin' you too. Love, Heather and Eleanor. xoxoxoxo. P.S. Forgot to tell you, Ricky and Stella. Good luck.

Ashlyn Joy, wishin' you a happy 5th birthday on your birthday June 14, 96. Hope you like d your birthday party. Again 'n' again, happy birthday!!!! Ash. Love you, from your kinda like aunties Heather and Gloria. xxxx.

This birthday wish goes out to our son Graham Cheezo who will be 6 years old on August 12, 1996. we love you always, From mom and dad in Eastmain.

We would like to wish a happy second birthday to our little girl Stacey Cheezo on August 9, 1996. With lots of hugs and kisses. Love, mom and dad in Eastmain.

Birthday blessings to Cecilia Petawabano on August 30, 1996. Remember that you'll always be our baby baby sister. If you ever need us we'll be there for you. From all

your big brothers and sisters. god bless you!!

Chantal Stephens will be 10 years old on August 20th. happy birthday!! Have lots of fun in your big day. Lots and lots of love from mommy, daddy, Junior, Mom and papa. xoxoxoxo.

Happy 15th birthday to our only son Dale Stephen who will be celebrating his 15th birthday on August 16, 1996. happy birthday and we love you. Love always, mom and dad (Louise and Walter)

A special birthday wish going out to a very special person in my life who takes care of me when mom is a t work. Noukom Elsie, her birthday is on September 30, 1996. Happy birthday gougou. I love you. Thanks for taking care of me. Love, Desiree Grace.

Happy birthday to my wife Shirley B. Moar on August 26, 1996. Time may change a lot of things in our lives, but one thing it can never change is the way I feel about you. Your kiss and your touch are still the sweetest pleasures I've ever known. And with every passing year my love for you becomes more stronger. I love you. Love always, your husband B.W. Moar Jr.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to a guy I've known for a year now, John Etapp in Ojag on August 10, 1996. My day is coming too on the 24th, remember! Just kidding! Anyway, happy 29th. Holy cow! But It's O.K.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my adorable nephew Justin "Rubber Ducky" on September 5th, 1996. I love you so much it hurts. I will remember that day I first saw you in the delivery room. You are my treasure. Love, auntie Weena.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Tony Mowatt on August 22. Sorry we couldn't be there. Just remember that we love you very much. from Leonda and your son Mike Mowatt. xxoxooo. See you soon.

We want to wish a happy 16th birthday to our daughter Serena Chakapash on august 22nd, 1996 who will be celebrating her birthday in Montreal. Take care of yourself. We love you and miss you. From Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday to our big sister Serena Chakapash on August 22nd, 1996. We miss you. With love, Robert (Loubit), Brian and Valentine.

Happy birthday going out to my shortest and wonderful brother Harry Joel Bosum on August 20th, 1996. I hope and wish you happiness in the days of your youth. take good care of yourself. I respect and love you. From sis WB.

I want to wish a wonderful happy birthday to my only friend who understood me a lot of times. Sorry for not being there always, Gloria Bosum on September 4, 1996. I hope someday we'll go away to school again. from friend Weena.

Happy birthday to my brother Roy Isaiah Mark on August 28, 96. Save all your energy for the candles to blow. From Ben, Sue, Casey, Amanda and Ching-Ching, Johnny Boy. god bless you on your special day. xx


Bonne fete Olivier. tu as quatre ans deja. Que tu

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grandis vite! On t'aime beaucoup. Maman, papa, Jennifer et Anthony.

102-WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate a special couple. Redfern and Gertie Cheezo on their wedding day on July 27, 1996. Wishing you a happy life together and forever. From Nicole and Monica Tanoush (Nem.)

Congratulations to Freddie and Yannick Wapachee. Wishing you guys all the best. Who got married on July 20th, 1996. Wishing you a happy life together. From Nicole and Monica Tanoush (Nemaska)

On August 2, 1996, two very good friends of ours, Billy and Shirley Longchap pledged their love as one while family and friends witnessed. We would like to wish them the very best life can offer in their future. your friends, Charlie and Deborah. P.S. Charlie, hope you had a wonderful birthday (on the same day) Love, Deborah.

Congratulations to Howard Bobbish and Brenda Napash on their wedding day on August 26, 1996. We wish you the very best. may your love grow more and more stronger everyday and for the years to come. from relatives and friends in Chisasibi.

Congratulations and best wishes to Brenda Napash and Howard Bobbish on their wedding day August 26. from the staff of WDC and Mitchuap restaurant.

Congratulations and best wishes to Sheila Fireman and Vern Napash on their wedding day august 26. From the staff of Wiichihiitun.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to our dear friends, Kathleen and Harry S. (Sept. 9th) and Lillian and Joe B. (September 22nd) Precious and memorable times are the ones spent with good caring friends. take care of each other. From Dan and Flo.

Happy 27th anniversary to our wonderful parents in Ojay, David and Anna Bosum. We love you so

much. Thank you for your love for us. Your special day, September 5, 1996, same as our cute nephew Justin's birthday. Love, your children.

I would like to wish my daughter Sally and my son-in-law Kenneth a happy 20th anniversary on the 18th of August. Love always, Dad.

We would like to wish our sister Sally and our brother-in-law Kenneth a happy 20th anniversary on Aug. 18th, 96. Wishing you both love, joy and a lifetime of happiness. From Dennis, George and Isabelle.

Happy anniversary to my husband Stanley M. on our 5th anniversary on July 26, 96. Our love was meant to be forever as long as we both shall live. God bless our lives forever amen. From your only wife MW. From Waswanipi.

We would like to wish our loving parents Stephen and Margaret Pepabano a happy 36th anniversary. From you nine children and 14 grandchildren.

Happy anniversary to a couple whom I hold very dearly in my heart, Jenny and Marcel Happyjack. Each year will bring you closer together. it's only a beginning, two years gone by. Take care of one another. In prayers always, Jimmy and Flora.

Happy 19th anniversary to our special son (brother) Jim Hester and his loving wife Mabel on August 29, 1996. Congratulations you both deserve the best. With much love, mom and dad and from your brothers and sisters (Wask.)

We would like to wish a happy 23rd anniversary to our parents Johnny and Winnie Bosum on August 10, 1996. We love you both so much and we hope the next 23 years will be as memorable as your last 23 years. From your two daughters, four sons, three grandchildren, one daughter-in-law, one son-in-law (to be) and Christine A. in Ojay.

Happy 25th anniversary to our granny Rose and to our grandpa Charlie on August

31, 96. From your grandchildren, Mervina, Marvin and Karraly.

We would like to wish our parents Rose and Charlie Hester a happy 25th anniversary on August 31, 1996. We love you both. From your children Beverly, Darryl and Kimberly.

Happy 41st anniversary to my parents David and Clara Gilpin on august 12, 1996. From Brenda Graham and Stacey in Eastmain.

We would like to wish a happy 7th anniversary to my friend Lily Anna and her husband Gordon Bosum on July 14, 1996. We wish you the best and all the best in the years to come and send my love to you three girls. From your friends in Waswanipi.

I would like to wish a happy anniversary to my beautiful

wife Louisa Wapachee. We love you so much. From Larry and Jeremy Wapachee.

Happy second anniversary to Florence and Johnny Shecapio on July 8, 96. May God be with you always and make each year together a happy one. From Caroline, Cheerily, Betsy, hazel, Ann-Margaret and Sylvester (Wem.)

Happy 30th anniversary to our parents Freddie and Clara Weapenicappo on August 1, 1996. We love you both very much. Love, your daughters, Caroline, Cheerily, Betsy, Ann-Margaret and your only son Sylvester. (Wem.)

300-PERSONALS

Hello?...The world is calling for Elaine Macleod (Mist) hey girl! Where in the world are you? I miss our friend-



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ship, I wrote to you but I never heard from you. What's going on girl? Please write back to me, that is of course you still have my address! Well, I hope to hear from you soon. From your friend in Ouje-Bougoumou, Guess who? (Bosum)

I would like to wish my cousin SC (the one with the sexy walk) good luck in the coming school year. Do your best so you can graduate soon and go off to law school. I hope you had tons of fun on your 18th and we'll have a blast (legally) Wishing you all the best. BB.

Felicia in Whapmagoostui. hello Darling! my modeling career is fabulous. Versace is giving me \$12 million contract for six weeks on the runway. You have to work to get this good honey! Maybe one day you'll be like me. As if...Oh...be expecting a wedding invitation soon. Dean Cain and I are engaged. All the "A" list will be there. Anyways, cheerios darling! Love always, DIVA (NYC) xoxoxoxo.

Be assured, dear friends, Cecile and Norman. Memory will never forget the hours I have spent with you. I will miss you in prayer. You will be remembered. Friend, Flora M.

Congratulations to Steve Cheechoo on your effort in the fitness challenge of 1996! As you pursue each of your goals, you have proven yourself to be a conscientious representative of the Lord, of your nation and of your community. This quality in you is very admirable and inspiring. Keep on keeping on!! I am very proud of you and your accomplishments. "I thank the Lord upon every remembrance of you" With love, Darlene Cheechoo.

To my cousin, Herbie's wife Gladys. Much thanks for the goose. Thought I was gonna have to give you one. The non-flying variety. Love always, Will. P.S. Haven't got any guts yet!!

To all aboriginal readers. Remember there is now a Native singles service operating out of Toronto. So there.

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For more information, contact:

Karen Wastasecoot
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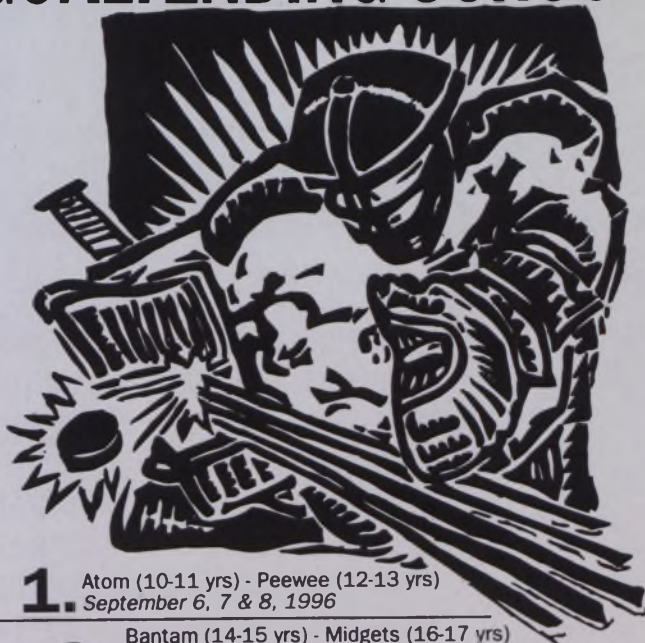


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